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The Chinese U-2 Affair

The Reds Claim Made-In-U. S. Chiang Plane

By David Wise
A Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON.

Communist China said yesterday it "shot down" a Nationalist Chinese American-made U-2 over its territory Sunday, touching off the second international incident involving the high-flying plane in less than a week.

On Formosa, the Nationalist Chinese government confirmed that it had American-made U-2 planes and that one of them was missing on a "routine reconnaissance mission." The spokesman said two U-2 planes were purchased in July, 1960 "from the Lockheed Aircraft Corp." in the United States.

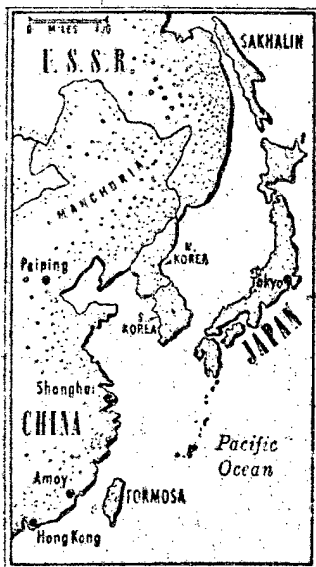
In Washington, after five and a half hours of backstage meetings at the White House, the Pentagon and the State Department, a United States spokesman issued this terse, one-sentence explanation:

"In July 1960, Lockheed Aircraft and the government of the Republic of China entered into a contract for the direct sale by Lockheed of two U-2 aircraft and an export license for the two aircraft was issued."

It was the first disclosure that the United States had permitted the United States comment shortly after 4 p.m. There was no other formal comment, but State Department officials said in answer to questions that no American pilots and no planes belonging to the United States were overflying Red China.

Officials said some Nationalist Chinese U-2 pilots were trained in the United States.

The United States government is not engaged in flying over Communist China, one State Department official said. This is a Chinese Nationalist show, he added. The officials who made these comments declined to be quoted or identified by name.



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WHERE — Nationalist China. U-2 plane, shot down by the Red Chinese in eastern China. Also shown, Soviet Sakhalin, scene of last week's U. S. U-2 over-flight.

Last Tuesday the Soviet Union charged that a United States U-2 aircraft had violated Soviet territory for nine minutes over Sakhalin Island north of Japan. The State Department said an Air Force U-2 "may" have "unintentionally" done so because of "severe wind." The State Department declined to comment on the purpose of the mission or to say where the

plane was based.

As is usual in anything involving the U-2, the Chinese incident was surrounded in mystery. Radio Peiping, which broadcast the first news, did not give the fate of the pilot or plane, nor did it explain the altitude of the U-2, which can fly at over 80,000 feet, or how the high-flying craft could have been "shot down."

Peiping did not say just where the U-2 was "shot down" other than "over East China." The Nationalist Chinese announcement did not answer any of these questions, either.

If the Communist Chinese did indeed shoot down the U-2 and the plane was flying at normal altitude, it would mean that the Peiping government has advanced anti-aircraft missiles, presumably Russian-made.

On a television panel program yesterday afternoon, Paul H. Nitze, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Affairs, was asked whether the plane might have been shot down fifth Russian-made rockets. "I presume they must have some surface-to-air missiles," he replied.

Mr. Nitze called the news "not a happy event" and added: "The United States does not fly planes over Communist China."

The incident was sure to add fuel to Communist attacks on the U-2 planes and the United States. Soviet Premier Nikit S. Khrushchev, in Moscow's note protesting the Sakhalin U-2, has already threatened to take the case to the United Nations.

A State Department spokesman said that while some Nationalist Chinese U-2 pilots were trained in this country in 1960, none had been trained here since then. He said he assumed the pilots were trained at an Air Force base.

Bought in 1960

According to the announcement by the Nationalist Chinese government at Taipei, Formosa, the two U-2s were purchased in July, 1960, and shipped to Formosa in December. "They have been in use ever since," said James Shen, the government spokesman.

In May of 1960, the fact that U-2s were overflying Russia for the Central Intelligence Agency was disclosed when the Soviets captured Francis Gary Powers and his plane near Sverdlovsk. The Russians

with a rocket at 68,000 feet.

At first, Moscow did not reveal it had both plane and pilot and the United States issued a prepared "cover" story saying that the U-2 was a "weather research" craft that had strayed over the border from Turkey and that its pilot was employed by the Lockheed Aircraft Corp.

After the Russians disclosed they had both plane and pilot, the United States admitted that the C-2 was on an espionage mission. The Big Four summit meeting at Paris collapsed and President Eisenhower's planned trip to the Soviet Union was canceled.

The Promises

Both President Eisenhower, in May 1960, and President Kennedy, on Jan. 25, 1961, promised that there would be no further flights over Russia.

However, neither President promised to stop using the U-2 near Soviet or other Communist territory and the U. S. statement in the Sakhalin island U-2 case made it apparent that such use has continued.

Yesterday's developments made it equally clear that the U-2 has continued to gather intelligence over the Chinese Communist mainland as well.

A State Department spokesman said that the planes were a Nationalist Chinese operation "it could be assumed" that, in line with normal exchanges of military intelligence among the U. S. and its allies, any information obtained by the Chinese U-2s would be made available to the United States.

In Hong Kong, it was reported that Communist China announced last July 28 that it would give 8,000 ounces of gold (\$260,000) to any Chinese Nationalist pilot who defected to the mainland with a U-2. The announcement was made by the Fukien Front Command opposite Formosa and broadcast at the time by the Communist New China News Agency. The Chinese Communists have made repeated charges that U-2s have been supplied to the Nationalists by the United States.

The Peiping broadcast, heard in London and Tokyo yesterday morning, simply said:

"A U. S.-made U-2 high altitude reconnaissance plane of the Chiang Kai-shek gang was shot down this morning by an Air Force unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army when it intruded over East China."